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# Immunochemical detection of human lactoferrin in feces as a new marker for inflammatory gastrointestinal disorders and colon cancer

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Received 5 November 1993; accepted 11 March 1994. ; Available online 15 January 2003.

## Abstract

We have developed a new immunochemical test for fecal lactoferrin (LF) utilizing an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). The ELISA had a sensitivity of about 10 µg/L of lactoferrin and the measurable range was 10.0–1000.0 µg/L (1.0–100.0 µg LF/g feces). The stability of lactoferrin in feces was greater than that of myeloperoxidase and leucocyte elastase. The fecal concentration of lactoferrin (mean ± SD) in 35 normal subjects was 0.75 ± 0.83 µg/g feces, whereas that in 24 patients with colon cancer was 74.4 ± 88.3 µg/g feces. The fecal lactoferrin concentration of 38 patient with active ulcerative colitis was 307.4 ± 233.9 µg/g feces, and that in 36 patients with active Crohn's disease was 191.7 ± 231.1 µg/g feces. The ELISA for human fecal lactoferrin might be useful in the diagnosis of colon disease.

**Author Keywords:** fecal lactoferrin; inflammatory bowel disease; colon cancer; ulcerative colitis; Crohn's disease; enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; polymorphonuclear leucocyte